

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

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(11)

EP 0 835 658 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
26.05.1999 Bulletin 1999/21

(43) Date of publication A2:
15.04.1998 Bulletin 1998/16

(21) Application number: **97402327.7**

(22) Date of filing: **03.10.1997**

(51) Int Cl.⁶: **A61K 31/375**, A61K 33/04,
A61K 31/185, A61K 35/74,
A23C 9/20, C12N 1/38,
C12Q 1/06
// (A61K31/375, 31:12),
(A61K33/04, 31:12),
(A61K31/185, 31:12)

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC
NL PT SE**
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV RO SI

(30) Priority: **04.10.1996 JP 281628/96**

(71) Applicant: **MEIJI MILK PRODUCTS COMPANY
LIMITED**
Tokyo 104 (JP)

(72) Inventors:
• **Mori, Hiroharu**
Higashimurayama-shi, Tokyo (JP)
• **Kaneko, Tsutomu**
Higashimurayama-shi, Tokyo (JP)
• **Isawa, Kakuhei**
Sofia (BG)

(74) Representative: **Clisci, Serge et al**
S.A. FEDIT-LORIOT & AUTRES
CONSEILS EN PROPRIETE INDUSTRIELLE
38, Avenue Hoche
75008 Paris (FR)

(54) **Enhancing and stabilizing agent of the activity of bifidus factor**

(57) The present invention relates to an agent for enhancing and stabilizing the activity of Bifidus factor, containing at least one member selected from the group consisting of ascorbic acid, hyposulfurous acid and acetic anhydride as the effective ingredient, and by prepar-

ing the agent singly or in combination with Bifidus factor as a food and drink type or as a composition of pharmaceutical type, intestinal microflora can be ameliorated. The agent can be used as a selective medium for assaying the number of bifidobacteria.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 40 2327

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 9644 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class B04, AN 96-441521 XP002098263 & RU 2 053 294 C (APPL MICROBIOLOGY RES INST), 27 January 1996 * abstract *	1,2,5,6	A61K31/375 A61K33/04 A61K31/185 A61K35/74 A23C9/20 C12N1/38 C12Q1/06
Y	* abstract *	3,4	//(A61K31/375, 31:12), (A61K33/04, 31:12), (A61K31/185, 31:12)
Y	DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 9313 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class D16, AN 93-103614 XP002098264 & JP 05 041995 A (MEIJI MILK PROD CO LTD) , 23 February 1993 * abstract *	3	
Y	DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 9625 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class B04, AN 96-245863 XP002098265 & JP 08 098677 A (MEIJI MILK PROD CO LTD) , 16 April 1996 * abstract *	4	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) A61K C12N A23C C12Q C12P
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 29 March 1999	Examiner Ryckebosch, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C01)